



The Rumble

Next Meeting

July 5, 2023 6PM

Program

Live Reverse Beacon Network demo

Meeting Location:

Northern AZ Fire Station #31,
2600 Northern Ave

From the Pres:

I would like to welcome all new members to this great group of ham radio operators. HARC is the oldest radio club in Kingman and this year we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in July, so let's all make this a year to remember. Please join us in our activities that the club puts on and please be a participating member of the club. Don't forget we carry Andy Devine's call sign and we should be proud of that and honor the call sign by using WB6RER during every event we do. Don't forget to use WB6RER on some of your QSO's this month.

Field Day

It was a great day of portable operating. It was an experiment in simple station setup with portable antenna systems. We set up a G5RV and the 4BTV on the club's trailer and we had a third station in the other small trailer. So → we were a 3A Field Day station. Mike, KG6ECW, did a great job of managing the operation and I hope he will do it again next year.

We are now talking about looking for a new FD location that is more RF quiet, so you all can do some mobile testing and help find a quiet spot for next year. We also had some visitors and one of them even sat down and made a few contacts.

Ted, KI7BWO, brought us a couple pepperoni pizzas for a snack. THANK YOU, Ted and thanks to all the club members who took the time to come and visit.

Up, Up and Away

Bob and Charlene's sponsored balloon "KJ7VBX" was launched on Wednesday, June 28th. As of the first of July, it was starting its journey across the Atlantic Ocean at 47,000ft. It's using a 20-meter

WSPR mode tracker system. Thank you both for sponsoring this balloon.

Jerry, KC7RCB, sponsored a balloon also; however, it unfortunately was lost over New Orleans on the 2nd day of its flight. It was probably a balloon failure, although we don't know for sure – perhaps there is more luck involved than we think!

We are putting together the WB6RER 50th anniversary balloon tracker set to launch this month.

Month of July activities:

Saturday July 1, 8am to 1030am FOX HUNT

Saturday July 8, SIMULATED EMERGENCY 10am. We need your help doing this.

Saturday July 22, BBQ at Jerry Zitterkoph home 10am-1230pm

July 1, 2023 Fox Hunt today and the winner is Scott KK7KBQ. Way to go Scott. This was a challenging location that Don, KB7USA and Jerry, KC7RCB came up with for this hunt. A big *Thank You* to all the other participants: Alan, Dean, Bob and Charlene, Tony. Well done, everyone!

We will be needing volunteers to participate in the Emergency Scenario Event on Saturday July 8th, starting at 10am. We will be using 2-meter FM simplex on 146.580 and will talk more about it at the next meeting.

Happy Anniversary Hualapai Amateur Radio Club:

50 years !

Thank you, Rick/K7CNT 73

From the HARC Secretary

Another Field Day has come and gone and we've already started planning for next year. I'll give an "after action report" at the next meeting.

Field Day is, traditionally, about 3 things, public exposure, testing/training for emergency communications and showing the public what we can do in the event of the breakdown in normal avenues of communication. Next year we would like to focus more on the emergency communications aspect, so if you have any ideas for Field Day next year, please, I/we would like to hear them. You can shoot me an email, pull me aside at a meeting or gathering or come out to one of the Field Day Committee meetings, any and all club members are welcome to attend and any and all club members are welcome to throw their idea(s) into the hat.

I'm curious about how many people would be interested in participating in Winter Field Day next year? For those who may not be familiar with it, Winter Field Day is similar to ARRL Field Day in June, but it is held the last full weekend in January, so next year it will be January 27 - 28. With our milder winters it shouldn't be too uncomfortable and we can always kick a heater on in the trailer. If you are interested in possibly participating, please let me know. You can find more information on Winter Field Day at the official web site, <https://winterfieldday.com/>.

One of the things that came out of the interests survey (I'll go over the results of that at the next meeting) is that a number of you are interested in portable operations. I'd love to hear more about what it is you are looking for in portable operations, so please let me know, either via email or pull me aside and talk to me.

That's all that I have for now.

73 de KG6ECW

Technology and the Ducie Island DXpedition

The recent activation of Ducie Island was a first of its kind. The island lies about 4,000 miles almost due south from Kingman. Historically, to activate a rare, usually uninhabited island with amateur radio requires getting there via boat (after a flight and

other intermediate stops) with a full team of hearty operators, equipment and crew. The team must first, however, obtain permission to set foot on the island from the administering country, as well as obtaining licenses to operate. There are also other considerations.

One of these is environmental concerns. These range from wildlife on the island, around the island and over the island to the physical island itself (sand, dirt, trees, shrubs, insects – everything). I remember assisting an expedition to a location in the southern hemisphere and at the first meeting we were shown a map of where people could walk, not walk and where structures were permitted and places that were absolutely off limits. All this made the station and antenna layouts very difficult, as even running coax or control cables across certain areas was restricted. Then there are considerations for shelter locations, food, waste, oil and fuel (not allowed to touch the ground), water and then the location must be left exactly as it was upon arrival. Pretty much like hiking into a pristine National Park, except on a larger scale.



he weather is always a major factor. This applies to not only getting to Point B, but selecting the structures to set up and how to maintain them during heavy storms that always show up. Adding to this, is the ocean: normal tides and storm surges (local and from storms hundreds of miles distant). Then we consider the size and type of vessel we need to cross the particular stretch of ocean. Once there, where will the vessel be anchored (offshore, in a lagoon)? Is possible to anchor at all? How do we

get from the vessel to the island with all our gear? Zodiac, helicopter, swim, or?

Medical is always important and the number one rule is – everyone comes back alive. This might seem like an exaggeration, but it isn't. These places are often hostile climates even without weather adding to the dangers. You plan for and make you own "911", as assistance from anyone else is a very long way away.

Communications with stations associated with the expedition, plus connection(s) to other services is paramount. One might even need to have an escort in certain waters. The station logs are another major concern and today most all are using computers. Add to this needing the Internet, plus a reliable connection to that portal.

All the above to say – nothing's easy when taking on this type of activity. Almost forgot – the actual location, time of year, probable propagation to the target zones (especially to major donor continents) and the antennas always come into the planning sessions.

This Ducie Island expedition, however, was different in a major way. Rather than having the operating team in shelters on the beach with all the equipment and environmental concerns, the beach was empty except for the transceivers, computers, amplifiers, generators and antennas. It was called the "Rig in a Box" ("RIB").

There were several RIB's and generators on the beach: full KW rigs and linked wirelessly to the vessel anchored offshore. From there, the RIB's went via satellite to a group of operators via the Internet who ran the pile-ups.

To quote from the VP6A web information about this first DXpedition,

"With funding from the Northern California DX Foundation George Wallner, AA7JV, put together a team to create that new way.

Welcome to the RIB (Radio in a Box). VP6A was the first full deployment of the RIB on a rare location. On 24 July at 16:00 UTC, VP6A went QRT after making just under 62,000 QSOs of which 24%, 15,000 were unique calls. DXCC was obtained on 6 bands.

There were 4 stations on the island. One used by AA7JV, W6IZT and KN4EEI on the boat and 3 others operated by 34 remote operators from 11 countries. Those operators were: 9V1YC, AA1V, AA7A, CT1BOH, CT1EEB, CT1ILT, DJ4MX, F6EXV, JN1THL, KC1KUG, KY7M, KD4Z, KL7YL, KO8SCA, K1DG, K4NHW, K6GFJ, K6TD, K6UFO, KL2A, K6MM, ND2T, N1DG, N2IC, OH2BH, PB8DX, PY5EG, VE4EA, VE5MX, VK3GK, W0GJ, W1RM, W1VE, and W8HC.

Some stats:

Set Up Time: Radios 1, 2 and RIB2 4 hours. Radio 3 on the third day.

Tear Down: 1 hr 50 min to off the island.

Total Op Time: 13 1/2 days.

Total Fuel Used: 80 gallons = 0.0013 gallons / QSO (5 ml/QSO)

Mother Nature and satellite latency threw us curve balls but we are extremely happy with the final result.

We hope our audience is too.

See you from our next location.

The VP6A Team"



Ducie Island with all the RIB's deployed. Difficult to see and certainly a minor footprint and impact compared to the historical method(s) of DXpeditions.



Northern Arizona DX Association

Presents the

FLAGSTAFF HAMFEST

Sponsored by The Amateur Radio Council of Arizona

July 15th, 2023. Sinagua Middle School,
which is located at 3950 E Butler Ave
Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

<https://www.flagstaffhamfest.org/>

OPERATING

There are no State QSO parties in July; however,
come August and September →

Maryland-DC QSO Party

<https://w3vpr.org/mdcqsop/>

08/12/2023 1400Z - 08/13/2023 0400Z



Hawaii QSO Party

<https://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>

08/26/2023 0400Z - 08/28/2023 0359Z



Ohio QSO Party MRCC - Mad River Radio Club

<https://www.ohqp.org/>

08/26/2023 1600Z - 08/27/2023 0400Z

Kansas QSO Party

<https://www.ksqsoparty.org/>

08/26/2023 1400Z - 08/27/2023 0200Z

08/27/2023 1400Z - 08/27/2023 2000Z



Colorado QSO Party

<http://ppraa.org/coqp>

Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Association

09/02/2023 1300Z - 09/03/2023 0400Z



Tennessee QSO Party

<https://www.tnqp.org/>

09/03/2023 1800Z - 09/04/2023 0300Z



Alabama QSO Party

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<http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/>

09/09/2023 1500Z - 09/10/2023 0300Z

Story County ARC

IOWA QSO Party

<http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP>

09/16/2023 1400Z - 09/17/2023 0200Z



Port City Amateur Radio Club

NH QSO Party

<https://w1wqm.org/nh-qso-party/#>

09/16/2023 TBD - 09/17/2023 TBD



Burlington County Radio Club

New Jersey QSO Party

<http://www.k2td-bccr.org/njqp/index.html>

09/16/2023 noon EDT - 09/17/2023 1159 EDT



Texas DX Society, Texas QSO Party

<https://www.txqp.net/>

09/16/2023 1400Z - 09/16/2023 0200Z

09/17/2023 1400Z - 09/17/2023 2000Z

Western Washington DX Club

Washington State QSO Party: "The Salmon Run"



<http://salmonrun.wwdxc.org/>

09/21/2023 1600Z - 09/22/2023 0700Z

09/21/2023 1600Z - 09/22/2023 2400Z

(maximum 23 hours operating time)

...plus one more in September and lots in October